

## **Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Meeting Summary**

October 27, 2016 1:00 PM – 3:15 PM  
MassDEP, One Winter Street, Boston, MA

### **2015 Disposal & Capacity Data Update**

Greg Cooper from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) discussed the Department's efforts to assemble statewide disposal data for the 2015 calendar year. The report will look similar to the 2014 Solid Waste Data Update, with a focus on disposal data and measuring progress towards Solid Waste Master Plan the goal of reducing disposal by 30% by the year 2020. The 2014 data indicated Massachusetts was halfway to that goal. There are a few missing pieces in terms of 2015 data from solid waste facilities, while import/export data from other states is coming in. The plan is to complete the analysis and release the report prior to the next SWAC meeting in January. MassDEP expects to have further discussion of solid waste management capacity at the January SWAC meeting.

### **Green Team FY16 Program Update**

Emily Fabel of the Center for EcoTechnology highlighted the recent statewide efforts of the Green Team. The Green Team, which is funded by MassDEP and delivered under contract to MassDEP by CET, promotes recycling in schools by providing educational resources, equipment giveaways, and recognizing successful programs. Last year, nearly 65,000 students in 314 schools participated in the Green Team.

### **RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts Hauler Contracting BMPs Discussion**

Heather Billings from the Center for EcoTechnology led a conversation about hauler-generator relationships as part of an effort to develop best management practices for businesses and institutions to contract with haulers for trash, recycling, and organics collection services. RecyclingWorks receives extensive questions on these topics through the program hotline and in delivering technical assistance. Therefore, MassDEP and CET established this initiative as part of the FY17 RecyclingWorks work plan. RecyclingWorks has met with eight haulers in recent months to better understand those relationships and is holding a number of meetings with stakeholders to obtain input into the development of these best management practices. RecyclingWorks is planning to issue the BMP recommendations in Spring 2017. For more information, please see the presentation posted with this meeting summary.

The group engaged in extensive discussion on these issues, which included the following comments:

- Haulers may be tentative to try and correct generator behavior (regarding disposal of waste ban materials) in case the generator selects a new hauler.

- It is wise for a hauler to pre-qualify a customer so they know what the anticipated waste stream looks like. Although many haulers know the type and quantity of waste they will collect based on the sector.
- RecyclingWorks can produce fact sheets for major sectors (i.e. restaurants, retail, colleges and universities) that focus on that sector's primary waste ban compliance needs.
- Taking pictures of loads can assist the hauler in helping the generator implement corrective measures. These can also come via pictures taken during waste ban inspections.
- Over half of Waste Ban violations come from a facility that has an existing recycling program; they're just not getting it implementing it correctly. That's where the hauler can help.
- Generators should know about their waste before they call a hauler. "An educated consumer is our best friend." Generators need to know when their contracts expire, and should understand some basics, such as volume-to-weight conversions. They should request reporting from their hauler, or find a hauler that allows them to monitor their waste..
- Generators can request a locked dumpster (or more specifically, a locked compactor) to limit access and avoid contamination. However, this can be difficult in multi-use commercial settings and may impact on the hauler's service routine.
- Haulers can use route audits to make adjustments to service levels. Based on contamination amounts in loads, for instance, an OCC load might have to be recycled as a single stream load.
- Haulers should provide generators with waste ban information up-front. A good hauler also evaluates a generator's waste, pre-bid, sometimes with a waste audit.

Question: Does the regulatory responsibility for recycling rest with the hauler or generator?

Answer: As written in the Waste Bans regulations, both have a responsibility for waste ban compliance. In practice, most waste ban enforcement has been issued to a generator, unless a hauler is clearly in the wrong – for instance, delivering a recycling load for disposal or mixing separated recyclables with a load of trash. However, MassDEP copies waste haulers on waste ban enforcement notices, as they have a key role to work with their customers in improving compliance.

### **Recycling Business Development Grant Update & Stakeholder Input**

John Fischer from MassDEP updated the group on the first two rounds of the MassDEP Recycling Business Development Grant Program, which awarded seven Massachusetts businesses in round one (at a total of more than \$900,000) and is finalizing the details on three awards for round two. The grants are focused on capital improvements that create additional diversion potential, remove barriers to recycling and make a meaningful impact on

Massachusetts and on a commodity's standing in the market. Projects involved materials such as glass, mattresses, plastics, and food de-packaging.

MassDEP is currently seeking stakeholder input and suggestions on selecting target materials for Round 3 of the grant program. For more information and background, please see the presentation posted with this meeting summary.

Suggestions included:

- It would be helpful for past awardees present to SWAC about what they brought to the table (to qualify for the grant) and what they're seeing in their implementation. John noted that MassDEP's criteria for reviewing grant applications included potential additional diversion, experience of the business and key staff, potential additional diversion and job creation, and a sustainable business plan. MassDEP is open to including presentations like this at a future meeting.
- Participants suggested carpet, styrofoam and lab plastics as target materials for these grants.
- John mentioned that companies awarded in a previous round can return to further expand their efforts, with a maximum of \$400,000 per grantee.

### **RecyclingWorks FY16 Program Update**

Lorenzo Macaluso from the Center for EcoTechnology presented on the progress the RecyclingWorks program has made in FY16, increasing its visibility, generating more inquiries, and providing more technical assistance than in previous years. Highlights included food donation guidance, new web resources on surplus property, on-site management of food waste guidance, and food de-packaging, including new case studies and videos. RecyclingWorks also has increased its social media presence, including an active Twitter page. For more information, please see the presentation posted with this meeting summary.